US 20020161969A1

(19) United States

(12) Patent Application Publication (10) Pub. No.: US 2002/0161969 A1

Nataraj et al. (43) Pub. Date: Oct. 31, 2002

(54) CONTENT ADDRESSABLE MEMORY WITH PROGRAMMABLE WORD WIDTH AND PROGRAMMABLE PRIORITY

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(21) Appl. No.: **10/000,122**

(22) Filed: **Oct. 31, 2001**

**Related U.S. Application Data**

(63) Continuation-in-part of application No. 09/406,170, filed on Sep. 23, 1999. Continuation-in-part of application No. 09/590,642, filed on Jun. 8, 2000, now Pat. No. 6,324,087. Continuation-in-part of application No. 09/590,428, filed on Jun. 8, 2000. Continuation-in-part of application No. 09/590,775, filed on Jun. 8, 2000. Continuation-in-part of application No. 09/594,206, filed on Jun. 14, 2000. Continuation-in-part of application No. 09/594,209, filed on Jun. 14, 2000. Continuation-in-part of application No. 09/594,201, filed on Jun. 14, 2000. Continuation-in-part of application No. 09/594,194, filed on Jun. 14, 2000. Continuation-in-part of application No. 09/594,202, filed on Jun. 14, 2000. Continuation-in-part of application No. 09/729,871, filed on Dec. 5, 2000. Continuation-in-part of application No. 09/815,778, filed on Mar. 24, 2001. Continuation-in-part of application No. 09/940,832, filed on Aug. 27, 2001.

**Publication Classification**

(51) **Int. Cl.**[7] ..... **G06F 12/00**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **711/108**; 711/158

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A content addressable memory (CAM) device including a CAM array and a priority index table. The CAM array has a plurality of rows of CAM cells, each row including a plurality of row segments and being adapted to store a data word that spans a selectable number of the row segments. The priority index table is coupled to the plurality of rows of CAM cells and is adapted to store a plurality of priority numbers, each priority number being indicative of a priority of a corresponding data word stored in the CAM array.